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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), are to: (a) provide a suitable environment for academic research and to undertake, organize, guide and promote research in select areas of humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, Indian culture, comparative religion, social environment, industry, agriculture, sustainable development and other such fields as the Centre may decide from time to time; (b) conduct field studies, refresher courses and summer school sessions; (c) organize seminars, symposiums, conferences, meetings, lectures and cultural activities; and (d) publish and exhibit periodicals, magazines, newspapers, books, pamphlets, monographs or posters that may be considered desirable for the promotion of the objectives of the Centre.

Significant changes in the organization's work, etc., might include, but not limited to: (a) in April 2007, the Society and Governing Body of CRRID changed the nomenclature of the post of Vice-Chairman to Senior Vice-Chairman and the new post of Executive Vice-Chairman has been created. These changes in the Constitution were necessitated due to an increase in the volume of academic, administrative and governance obligations of CRRID at the national and international levels; (b) the organization also has new organizational affiliations and linkages with: International Assessment and Strategy Center, New York, United States; Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul, Republic of Korea; University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada; and School of Public Health, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: (a) Informal High Level Economic and Social Council Meeting (September 2005): Dr. Rashpal Malhotra, Director General and Executive Vice-Chairman, CRRID, participated in this meeting organized by the Economic and Social Council in New York; (b) the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institutional Meeting (February-March 2007, Lisbon): Dr. Bindu Duggal of CRRID attended the meeting and made a presentation of her research findings on "Poverty and Human Rights Issues in Urban Slums: An Analysis of the Dimensions and Mainsprings through Case Studies of Chandigarh" (under Small Grants Programme on Poverty Eradication, Building National Capacities for Research and Policy Analysis).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters: Completed a project in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-National AIDS Control Organization, sponsored through the AIDS Control Society, Himachal Pradesh, on Enabling Environment Interventions for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS in Mcclodganj (Dharamshala), District-Kangra, Himachal Pradesh: A Baseline Study Report. The project was undertaken jointly by CRRID, Chandigarh and Swami Rama Gurmat Mission, Palampur, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: Research projects conducted on the following themes at CRRID, as specific to different Millennium

Development Goals: **Goal 1 — Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**: (a) Poverty and Human Rights Issues in Urban Slums: An Analysis of the Dimensions and Mainsprings through Case Studies of Chandigarh. Sponsor: UNESCO, Paris; (b) Rapid Appraisal of National Rural Health Mission in Punjab. Sponsor: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India; (c) Urban Poverty Reduction Strategy for the City of Ambala. Sponsor: National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi and UNDP; (d) Rapid Diagnostic Evaluation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme in Union Territory of Chandigarh. Sponsor: Directorate of Public Instructions (S), Chandigarh Administration; (e) Urban Poverty Profile for the City of Chandigarh. Sponsor: All India Institute of Local Self Government, Mumbai; (f) Urban Poverty Profile for the City of Ludhiana. Sponsor: All India Institute of Local Self Government, Mumbai; (g) Baseline Survey for Swayamsidha Integrated Programme for Women's Empowerment Programme. Sponsor: Directorate of Social Security, Child and Women, Development, Government of Punjab; (h) National Family Health Survey-III (Punjab and Haryana State). Sponsor: International Institute of Population Studies, Mumbai and United States Agency for International Development; (i) a Consolidated Report on the Use of Ultrasound Machines in India by Registered Ultrasound Centres and Need Assessment of Such Equipment for AYUSH Practitioners. Sponsor: Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Division, Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi; (j) Urban Poverty Reduction Strategy for the City of Ludhiana. Sponsor: National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi and UNDP; (xi) Urban Poverty Reduction Strategy for the City of Ambala. Sponsor: National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi and UNDP; (k) three international conferences on the theme "Cooperative Development, Peace and Security in South and Central Asia". Sponsor: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education: (a) Fiscal Decentralization and Resource Mobilization by Panchayats for the Social Sector Development in Rural Punjab: An Analysis of Efficiency and Equity Effects. Sponsor: Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, New Delhi; (b) Impact of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan on the Universalization of Primary and Elementary Education in Punjab. Sponsor: Department of Planning, Government of Punjab.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health: (a) National Family Health Survey III — Haryana (A Preliminary Analysis of Health and Family Welfare Indicators). Sponsor: CRRID, Chandigarh; (b) The Prevalence of Non-Institutional Deliveries in Rural Punjab: Why Women Persist with Home Deliveries? Sponsor: PRC, CRRID, Chandigarh; (c) Evolution of the Functioning of Urban Family Welfare Centres/Health Posts in Punjab. Sponsor: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India through the International Institute of Population Studies, Mumbai; (d) Changing Status of Gaddi Tribals in Himachal Pradesh (A Micro Study in Kangra District). Sponsor: CRRID, Chandigarh; (e) Health Care Services in Punjab: Findings from Patient Satisfaction Survey. Sponsor: Population Research Centre (PRC), CRRID, Chandigarh; (f) Family Planning Acceptance Status in Punjab. Sponsor: Population Research Centre, CRRID, Chandigarh; (g) Diversity Among Muslim Majority Countries within Unity of Islam (A Study of Demographic and Health Indicators). Sponsor: Population Research Centre, CRRID, Chandigarh.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability: (a) Promotion of Plastics for the Conservation of Energy and Protection of Environment (A Need Assessment Study of Application of Plastics in Agriculture, Horticulture and Allied Sectors of

Himachal Pradesh and Punjab). Sponsor: Gas Authority of India Ltd, New Delhi; (b) Rural Drinking Water Supply Projects in Punjab — An Evaluation Study. Sponsor: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Chandigarh; (c) Impact Assessment Study of Rural Development Programmes in Bathinda District of Punjab. Sponsor: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi; (d) Monitoring of Total Sanitation Campaign and Swajaldhara Programme in Punjab (Districts: Moga, Bathinda, Kapurthala, Nawanshahr, Amritsar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Muktsar, Roopnagar and Patiala). Sponsor: Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi; (e) Random Sample Survey of Habitations-2006 in Punjab and Haryana States. Sponsor: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

2. Landmine Survivors Network (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) is a global network of conflict survivors rebuilding communities to break cycles of victimization and violence. LSN and its local partners aim to achieve this purpose in war-affected communities by initiating peer support programmes, creating economic opportunities, facilitating collective work by survivors on community rebuilding projects, and working with survivor advocates on national and international levels to develop laws and practices that promote survivor rights. LSN peer support methodology focuses on training survivors as peer counsellors to work with conflict survivors and link them to health services and jobs. Through coalitions of diverse survivor groups, including former adversaries, LSN facilitates their collective action on rebuilding their communities. LSN advocates nationally and globally for human rights of all survivors of conflict.

Significant changes in the organization: LSN expanded its mission and changed its name. LSN programmes guided the reintegration of thousands of landmine victims and led advocacy for international human rights treaties that affect the lives of victims of landmines and protect disability rights, namely: The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine-Ban Treaty) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. On 22 February 2008, the LSN Board of Directors amended the Articles of Incorporation to change the organization's name. This change has not yet been reflected in the registry at the United Nations. The amendment expanded the LSN target population and broadened the geographic orientation of the organization. The target population changed from landmine survivors and persons with disabilities to "individuals, families, and communities worldwide who have been injured or otherwise affected by violent conflict and human rights abuse". The geographic scope grew from LSN centers in five countries (El Salvador, Viet Nam, Jordan, Ethiopia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina) and a partner organization in Colombia, to include three new areas (Great Lakes region of Africa, Middle East, and United States of America).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

2005: Fifth session of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (Ad Hoc Committee) (January-February); and sixth session (August, New York): LSN lobbied for adoption of language in the draft United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. LSN advised the official delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a member of the Steering Committee of the International Disability Caucus, LSN drafted and delivered written and oral interventions on international monitoring mechanisms, rehabilitation, and protection of rights of persons with disabilities in times of conflict, including "Legal Analysis of the Modifications Proposed at the 3rd and 4th United Nations Ad Hoc Committee Meetings". Within the International Disability Caucus, LSN developed legal analyses of the proposed draft. LSN organized a side event on international and national monitoring mechanisms.

2006: Seventh session of the Ad Hoc Committee (January-February, New York): LSN participated in the side event "Improving Accessibility: Governmental and Civil Society Perspectives", offering perspectives of landmine survivors on challenges of accessibility. LSN contributed to International Disability Caucus Fact Sheets focusing on personal mobility, rehabilitation, international monitoring mechanisms, situations of conflict and occupation, accessibility and sports.

2007: Signing ceremony for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (March, New York): LSN participated. LSN continued to promote disability rights as member of the Steering Committee of the International Disability Alliance United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Forum (formerly International Disability Caucus), with campaign materials development, networking and technical assistance to campaigners around the world. LSN El Salvador was the lead disability rights organization promoting ratification in that country, resulting in El Salvador's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol on 14 December. LSN collaborated with Croatian disability rights organizations and government representatives, helping to ensure that Croatia ratified the Convention and its Optional Protocol on 15 August. In March, LSN published the Convention in a convenient, user-friendly format to support grass-roots advocacy and education on the Convention and "Disability Rights Convention Ratification Handbook", a toolkit for grass-roots disability rights advocacy for national adoption and ratification of the Convention.

2008: First conference of States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (November, New York): LSN participated in conference proceedings. Through work in the International Disability Alliance United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Forum, international and country-based efforts, LSN influenced ratification processes in Jordan, Uganda and Rwanda.

Cooperation with the United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

2005: LSN contributed to the development of "Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes" produced by the United Nations Mine Action Service in February.

2006: Seventh meeting of State parties to the Mine-Ban Treaty, 18-22 September 2006, Geneva, Switzerland. LSN participated in the side event held by the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations in Geneva: "Victim Assistance and Disability Rights: The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities within the Framework of the Mine-Ban Treaty".

Mine-Ban Treaty Intersessional Standing Committees Meetings (May, Geneva, Switzerland): LSN trained survivor advocates, facilitated their participation in these events, and participated in the contributions of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

2007: LSN participated in the following Conferences on Cluster Munitions: 22-23 February, Oslo, Norway; 23-25 May, Lima, Peru; 5-7 December, Vienna, Austria. LSN delivered statements on the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for victim assistance and published an analysis of the draft treaty provisions negotiated. In November LSN published "A Human Rights-Based Approach to Disability: The Legal Framework for Survivor Assistance in 24 States Parties", a legal analysis of national legislation and constitutions in the 24 most mine-affected countries as it relates to survivor assistance and disability rights.

2008: Meeting of Group of Governmental Experts on the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (also known as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons) (April, Geneva, Switzerland): LSN participated and presented the rights-based approach to survivor assistance.

United Nations Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms (July, United Nations Headquarters, New York): LSN participated and contributed to the statements delivered by civil society.

LSN contributed to the International Disability Alliance United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' Contribution to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Thematic Study on enhancing awareness and understanding of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, completed in September. LSN collaborated with the United Nations Mine Action Service, which published "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Advocacy Toolkit" in October. This is the first toolkit used to engage United Nations integrated field offices in advocacy for ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the first such document introduced within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations.

LSN participated in the following Conferences on Cluster Munitions: 18-22 February, Wellington, New Zealand; 19-30 May, Dublin, Ireland. LSN coordinated campaigning for and participated in the negotiating sessions on victim assistance and promoted connections between the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Negotiating States incorporated most of LSN's language recommendations. LSN organized the events: "Voices from the Field: Practitioner's Perspectives on Victim Assistance"; "Disarmament and Human Rights: Connecting the Dots".

Convention on Cluster Munitions Signing Conference, 2-4 December, Oslo, Norway: LSN gave a statement on victim assistance, presented disability rights, emphasized synergies among treaties.

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: LSN contributed to the Millennium Development Goals through work in its field offices in: Kampala, Uganda; Kigali, Rwanda; Bujumbura, Burundi; San Salvador, El Salvador; Tuzla City, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Amman, Jordan; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Dong Hoi City, Viet Nam; and Bogotá, Colombia. **Goal 1**, Target 1.B: achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all. Income generation is an integral component of LSN's work with survivors. Through linking and referring survivors to existing employment, and providing seed funds for small-business start-up, LSN facilitates economic opportunities essential for survivor recovery. **Goal 8**, Target 8.B: address the special needs of the least developed countries. Many of the least developed countries are rebuilding in the wake of conflict. Through the rebuilding of communities, the reintegration and rehabilitation of survivors of war, and advocacy on the part of survivors, LSN promotes development in these least developed countries. LSN also attempts to bridge the perceived gap between the Millennium Development Goals and the advancement of rights of persons with disabilities through its work with the IDDC Coalition.

3. Hoffnungszeichen (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: Hoffnungszeichen (Sign of Hope) is an inter-denominational human rights and relief organization. The focus of its work is the worldwide assistance for people in distress. Sign of Hope pleads for people whose human rights are violated or threatened, and provides humanitarian assistance in the form of disaster relief, emergency relief and development aid for people in need. Sign of Hope considers itself a bridge of love and aims to establish a union between people who give and people who receive, a bridge, the foundation of which is humanity, charity and solidarity. Sign of Hope provides help for the indigent and gives people who are ready to help the opportunity to do so. Within the scope of the human rights activities, Sign of Hope gives worldwide support to people whose human rights are violated or threatened. Special thematic attention is paid to the right to freedom of religion. Information of relevance for human rights are gained and collected in the organization's information research. Of particular importance is information that Sign of Hope acquires on site as first-hand accounts during human rights assessment trips. The information is processed through such means as reports or essays for the Sign of Hope magazine. In the fields of exertion of influence, Sign of Hope undertakes activities for the improvement of human rights situations in particular countries and/or in order to succour victims of human rights violations. In these efforts, Sign of Hope engages the public with protest and prayer events or, for the sake of people in distress, uses diplomatic contacts in the background of the

political scene. In addition, Sign of Hope performs human rights projects in selected countries. In the field of humanitarian help, Sign of Hope gives worldwide support for people in need. In the area of short-term disaster relief, Sign of Hope quickly and efficiently secures the survival of people worldwide affected by sudden disasters or wars. In the area of short- and medium-term emergency relief, Sign of Hope reacts to situations occurring in selected countries in which the quick delivery of relief goods is important for people's survival. An additional objective of such emergency relief is to improve the current conditions of life for those affected. In the case of a thorough alleviation of the effects of an emergency, Sign of Hope also follows emergency relief projects with long-term development aid projects in selected countries. Contrary to the disaster and emergency relief activities, the objectives of the development aid involve long-term, sustainable targets and intended structural changes. In particular, the long-term sustainable targets include an extensive improvement of the conditions of life in the areas of the basic human needs of food, drinking and safety. The organization's focus is always on the human being in need.

Significant changes in the organization: Sign of Hope's constitution was changed in March 2008. Sign of Hope introduced a supervisory board which is composed of volunteers. The executive board is now composed of salaried professionals. This step allows a sharp distinction between strategic and operative leadership within the organization.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

In 2006 the organization contributed to the sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights (March, Geneva, Switzerland) by submitting a written statement (E/CN.4/2006/NGO/232) dated 7 March concerning the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world.

In 2007 the organization contributed to agenda item 2 of the second session of the Human Rights Council (November, Geneva, Switzerland) by submitting a written statement (A/HRC/4/NGO/145) dated 9 March concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution 60/251 (2006) entitled "Human Rights Council".

In 2008 the organization contributed to agenda item 4 of the seventh session of the Human Rights Council (March, Geneva, Switzerland) by submitting a written statement (A/HRC/7/NGO/21 and A/HRC/7/NGO/21/Corr.1) dated 21 February and 18 March 2008 concerning human rights situations requiring the Human Rights Council's attention. Due to its limited capacities the organization was not able to attend other United Nations meetings.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field

As there are no resident personnel of Sign of Hope in the main countries of Sign of Hope, there was basically no opportunity to cooperate with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field. However, the organization is open and willing to cooperate with any United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies, as soon as there is an opportunity to do so.

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in the following three

geographical regions: South America, Africa and Asia. Only the most important and relevant Millennium Development Goals within the organization's scope of activity are described here, although the organization does contribute to the Millennium Development Goals other than those expressly mentioned below. Also, Sign of Hope is currently working on assessing the number of beneficiaries for each project: (a) **Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**: Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. ACTIONS: In the Sudan (for example, in Mapourdit, Marial Lou, Gordhim, Nzara, Raja), Sign of Hope has given financial contributions to feeding centres and nutritional departments in Primary Health Care Units. Sign of Hope has, moreover, arranged for transport of relief materials to these sites. In Luanda, Angola, Sign of Hope distributed basic foodstuffs through a local partner to 1,824 people in need in the villages of Candombe Velho, Cambila, Missiao de Kikaya, Candambe Novo, Kakioya, Kapesso, Papelao and Bairro Cemiteri. The organization gave financial support to the food programme for 620 school children in Bukavu, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The organization has provided funds to a local partner to distribute 38 tons of foodstuffs in Marsabit, Kenya; (b) **Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**: Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015. ACTIONS: Sign of Hope financially supported a programme carried out by a local partner against the traditional practices of female genital mutilation in Ethiopia. 131 people were being trained for their home community in order to fight female genital mutilation. The issue of gender equality and empowerment of women is a cross-cutting issue which is comprehensively being addressed in many Sign of Hope projects; (c) **Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**: Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. ACTIONS: Sign of Hope has carried out a programme which addresses the contamination of ground water resources by oil companies in the Sudd, the world's largest swamplands, located in the Sudan. Sign of Hope is documenting pollution, trying to find ways to avoid contamination and to provide the local population with clean drinking water.

Activities in support of global principles: World Human Rights Day has been observed and publicly addressed in press releases each 10 December by Sign of Hope. Other United Nations Memorial Days such as Universal Children's Day and World Population Day have been publicly addressed in press releases. Sign of Hope activities are occasionally being put in correlation with United Nations Memorial Days, and Sign of Hope is, moreover, publishing a monthly magazine which reaches some 40,000 readers in Germany. In these ways, the organization publicly addresses and promotes the ideas expressed in the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and thereby supports the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights. Finally, the activities of Sign of Hope that address the contamination of drinking water resources caused by activities of the oil industry in the Sudan (southern areas) aim to promote greater environmental responsibility.

4. Society for Threatened Peoples (Special; 1993)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) is a human rights organization that advocates the rights of ethnic and religious minorities around the world. STP has played a major role in the United Nations by promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and by supporting the drafting of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Therefore the main activities of STP consisted of the participation in the Commission on Human Rights, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and several subcommissions. Due to a reorganization, STP headquarters was transferred from Luxemburg to Göttingen, Germany, in 2008.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

2005: (a) Sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights (March-April, Geneva): STP participated by submitting the following written statements: Violence against Roma women in the European Union; Displaced persons in Turkey; Indigenous peoples in Alaska (United States of America); The asylum policy of the European Union; Religious intolerance in Iraq; Racial discrimination in Australia; Science and environment in the Russian Federation; Torture and detention in Ethiopia; Economic, social and cultural rights in the People's Republic of China; Justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sudan; The right to self-determination in Western Sahara and of Cabinda people in Angola; Minorities and racism in the Russian Federation; Children in northern Uganda; Human rights defenders in Brazil and Syria; Marginalization of ethnic minorities in Nigeria; The plight of children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Violation of human rights in the People's Republic of China; Disappearances and summary executions in the Russian Federation. STP participated with oral statements: Anti-Semitism and xenophobia in the Russian Federation; Violation of human rights in the People's Republic of China. STP organized a side event on 30 March in Geneva on "United Nations Commission on Human Rights Mandates, Treaty Bodies and the People's Republic of China", and on 11 April STP was invited to a side event in Geneva on "Draft Declaration on Indigenous Rights"; (b) fifty-seventh session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (July-August, Geneva): twenty-third session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations July, Geneva), fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (May, New York). Delegates of Society for Threatened Peoples participated in these meetings.

2006: (a) Sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights (March, Geneva). STP participated by submitting the following written statements: Indigenous peoples in the Arctic threatened by climate change; Return of refugees and internally displaced people in Bosnia; Minorities in Iran and Turkey; Children in northern Uganda; Violence against women in Sudan; Impunity in Turkey; Violence in southern Thailand; Freedom of expression in the People's Republic of China; Religious intolerance in Iraq; Xenophobia in Syria; Resettlement in Lao People's Democratic Republic. STP organized a side event on Internet censorship and freedom of information in Geneva on 29 March; (b) delegates participated in the

twenty-fourth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (July-August, Geneva), in the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (May, New York) and supported the preparation of the draft of "Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"; (c) fifty-eighth session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (August, Geneva): STP participated with an oral statement: Testimony of a former prisoner on torture in the People's Republic of China; (d) second session of the Human Rights Council (September-October, Geneva): STP was invited to a side event on the representation of parliamentarians in the United Nations in Geneva on 9 October; (e) third session of the Human Rights Council (November-December, Geneva): Joint statement of 11 organizations on the Nangpa Pass-shooting incident in the People's Republic of China.

2007: (a) Fourth session of the Human Rights Council (March, Geneva): STP participated by submitting the following written statements: Indigenous peoples and climate change; Human rights in Western Sahara; Minorities in Turkey and Iran, Fragile peace in Sudan; Persecution of Christians in Iraq; Discrimination in Lao People's Democratic Republic; Xenophobia in the Russian Federation; Women in the People's Republic of China; War criminals in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Repression against minorities in Myanmar; Violations of the rights of children; (b) sixth session of the Human Rights Council (September): STP submitted a joint statement of seven human rights organizations on freedom of religion and a joint NGO statement on the situation of human rights in Myanmar; (c) sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (May, New York) and lobbied among United Nations Member States for the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration was finally adopted by the United Nations General Assembly during its sixty-second session.

2008: (a) First session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group of the Human Rights Council (April): Society for Threatened Peoples delivered written submissions on the human rights situation in Argentina, Finland, Ecuador, France, India, Morocco, Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil and Sri Lanka; (b) delegates participated in the seventh session of the Human Rights Council (March, Geneva): STP participated by submitting the following written statements: Violence against women in Guatemala; Displacement in Sri Lanka; Human rights in Somalia; Impunity in Sudan; Ethnic minorities in Myanmar. STP also participated with oral statements: Situation of refugees in Nepal and Torture in the People's Republic of China. STP screened the film "What remains of us?" in a side event on 10 March 2008 in Geneva. The Canadian documentary film was awarded with the First Prize of the Grand Prix Sergio Vieira de Mello Human Rights Film Festival in Geneva 2007. The Film was selected as the "Most Popular Canadian Film" and was awarded "Best International Documentary" at the Hollywood Film Festival in 2004. On 2 June 2008, we were invited to a side event in Geneva on the human rights situation in Tibet Autonomous Region of China; (c) eighth session of the Human Rights Council (June, Geneva): STP participated by submitting the following written statements: Sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Human rights and development in the People's Republic of China; (d) ninth session of the Human Rights Council (September, Geneva): STP participated by submitting a written statement: Promotion and protection of human rights in the People's Republic of China; and the oral joint statement of four NGOs on arrests in Tibet Autonomous Region of China; (e) second session of the Universal Periodic Review

Working Group of the Human Rights Council (May, Geneva): Society for Threatened Peoples delivered written reports on the human rights situation in Romania, Japan, Gabon, Peru, Mali, Pakistan and Guatemala; (f) delegates of Society for Threatened Peoples participated in the seventy-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in February and in the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (April-May, New York).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The STP representative in the United States of America, filmmaker Rebecca Sommer, was commissioned by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to produce the documentary film "Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations", which was intended for government officials and staff of United Nations agencies to raise awareness about indigenous issues and the work of the Permanent Forum. In 2005, on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August, the film was screened in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium at United Nations Headquarters to politicians and diplomats. The film received the New York International Film and Video Festival Award, International Affairs, 2007, and was selected for the Montreal Human Rights Film Festival, the Oxford Brookes University Human Rights Film Festival and the Human Rights Film Festival, New Zealand.

5. Tarumitra (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Tarumitra is a forum of students on the environment. Started in 1988, the organization aims to promote ecological sensitivity, especially among the fellow students. Networking in over 1,600 schools and colleges across India, Tarumitra has reached out to a million students on environmental issues since its inception on 11 September 1988. The quarter million-strong students as primary workers in the organization have raised a substantial amount of funds for its activities over the last four years. Tarumitra also has been chiefly funded and supported by Caritas Switzerland and the Patna Jesuits, India.

II. Contribution to the Work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Student and teacher members have represented Tarumitra at United Nations meetings. Designated members attended the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development at United Nations Headquarters. The Secretary-General attended the thirteenth session of the Commission (April 2005). One of our youth workers attended the fourteenth session the following year (May 2006). The Secretary General, Robert Athickal, along with Professor Sosamma Mathew, attended the fifteenth session (April-May 2007). He attended the sixteenth session (May 2008), where he actively participated in the discussions on sustainable agriculture as a representative of non-governmental organizations. Sixteen students and teachers from Indian schools attended the five-day Tunza International

Children's Conference of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Toyohashi, Japan (July 2005). Two selected members attended the UNEP Tunza International Children's Conference in Putrajaya, Malaysia (August 2006). Twenty-one students and teachers participated in the five-day UNEP Tunza International Children's Tunza Conference in Stavanger, Norway (June 2008). Two of the students made such commendable contributions at the conference in Stavanger that UNEP recognized them by selecting one of them, Ms. Yugratna Srivastava, for the Junior Board of UNEP in 2008 for two years for organizing future Tunza International Children's Conferences. The other, Ms. Shweta Marandi (an indigenous girl student), was conferred the title "Hero of the Month" for her campaigns for a low carbon footprint and her picture was on the UNEP website. Tarumitra student representative from LeHigh University, Pennsylvania, attended the United Nations General Assembly meeting on the global financial crisis (2008) at United Nations Headquarters. One of the designated delegates presented a talk on "A World view of the Five Elements (Panchtatwas)" at side events of the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (April-May 2007) at United Nations Headquarters.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Tarumitra has a liaison point between UNEP and the Indian students, since the organization was requested by UNEP to send a total of 46 student delegates and chaperones to the Tunza conferences. Tarumitra has prepared a dozen PowerPoint presentations on the Millennium Development Goals on the environmental concerns, which were extensively used in Tarumitra and related NGO meetings regarding the national and international campaigns for the planet. Many of these presentations were used when the Secretary General, Robert Athickal, engaged the Conference of the All India Association of Catholic High Schools of over 500 high school principals on the theme "Environment Education in Delhi" (November 2007). Another delegate to the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development authored a series of text books entitled *My Green Mother Earth* on environmental education for classes 5-10 in India. Considered as one of the best series of textbooks on the subject, the books are used in hundreds of high schools in the country promoting Millennium Development Goals concerns on the environment. The Secretary General of the organization acted as the chief resource person on the event "Environmental Concerns of the Millennium Development Goals" at the National Consultation of Conference of Religious of India, held in Patna, India (October 2008). The conference subsequently brought out a document "Walk humbly, Live simply on the earth", which has been circulated among 100,000 members, urging them to adopt environmentally friendly practices in their lives.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: environmental sustainability: All the activities of Tarumitra converged promoting sustainable environment. Tarumitra concentrated on high school-level students and their teachers for this aim. As part of the promotion on ecological sensitivity, Tarumitra's share of work: (a) *Establishment of Nature Clubs* in high schools and colleges. The students started such nature clubs at over 1,600 institutions across India. As part of the sensitizing of the students and teachers, Tarumitra conducted over 1,000 one-day camps and over 300 residential workshops for students and teachers in the past four years. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has chronicled these activities

(http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6205286.stm), and India's *The Telegraph* has also covered the eco-camps (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050321/asp/nation/story_4510598.asp); (b) *Establishment of Bio-reserves*: The organization assembled an ex situ conservation site in a sizeable plot of land gifted to them by the Patna Jesuits in Patna, Bihar. Over 450 varieties of vanishing trees and medicinal plants were collected and planted at the site. A network of seven genetic nurseries ensured that the varieties were available for interested persons. The Patna Bio-reserve captured the imagination of about 10 organizations that volunteered to build bio-reserves in India in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand; Asansol, West Bengal; Bettiah, Bihar; Pune, Maharastra; Ahmednagar, Maharastra; Karjat, Maharastra; and Tadong, Sikkim; (c) *Running a Pollution Checking Centre*: Tarumitra got a license from the Government of the State of Bihar to operate and certify pollution levels of vehicles with the intention of creating awareness of issues of vehicular pollution. With over 2,200,000 residents, the city used a large number of vehicles with very low pollution norms. To date, the group, with the help of high school and college students, checked over 5,000 motor vehicles and issued certificates in the last three years; (d) *Conservation of Water*: There was a sustained campaign not to waste water by appointing Energy Monitors in each of the class rooms. There was a natural recycling programme called "Root Zone Canal Treatment" constructed at the Tarumitra Bio-Reserve, where the system demonstrated to the students and teachers. Every drop of waste water is conserved in the process; (e) *Demonstration and Installation of Solar Energy Harnessing Utilities*: Over the last four years, Tarumitra set up two large Sheffler Community Cookers, 25 Parabolic Family cookers, a Solar Drier, a small Solar distillation plant, a 200-litre Solar Hot Water System and a 3KV Solar Electricity generation plant, all for educational purposes. Two Scheffler Community Parabolic cookers took care of cooking food for 50 campers at a time. The Center operates chiefly on solar electricity produced by 22 Solar panels; (f) *Earth-friendly Construction Techniques*: The main buildings of the Bio-Reserve, including a large hall and hostel facilities for 100 students were all constructed with earth-friendly cost-effective techniques. These buildings were cited by media as examples of creativity and earth-friendliness. (For example, the national newspaper *Hindustan Times* had a feature on 19 February 2000 and *Times of India* published a full page feature on 23 October 2002. *Dainik Jagran* also covered Tarumitra's activities, and Indian Buildings Congress published a presentation made by one of the senior students in January 2009 in the *Journal of the Indian Buildings Congress*); (g) *Creation of an international network of students and groups*: Tarumitra wants its members to think globally and act locally. This desire alone promoted it to apply for Special Consultative status from the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Organizations and institutions such as Caritas Switzerland, Suffolk University (Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America), the University of Washington (Seattle, Washington, United States of America), and Honan University (Republic of Korea) have delegated students to spend time at the Tarumitra Bio-Reserve. In the process, students and individuals from Switzerland, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Argentina, Kenya and the United States of America have interacted with the Indian students, and worked together to promote greater international understanding and good will. Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts, United States of America, conferred an Honorary Doctorate on the Secretary General, Robert Athickal, on 23 May 2008, as part of the international outreach. *The Global Citizenship* of LeHigh University in Pennsylvania, United States of America,

designated two students who have regularly represented Tarumitra at briefings of NGOs and the Department of Public Information briefings at the United Nations (New York, United States of America) since 2007.

6. United States Federation for Middle East Peace (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The United States Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP) is taking vital steps against unrest and turmoil in the Middle East by eradicating both misinformation and fear of the unknown. This is being accomplished by exchanging information regarding the culture, traditions, religion and history of the Middle East and the principles of Americans and their way of life via seminars, conferences and round-table discussions. In addition to these interfaith and intercultural dialogues, information is strategically disseminated to educate the public and thereby build mutual understanding and respect by eliminating stereotypes and inaccurate beliefs that spark distrust and conflict. In conjunction with these peace initiatives, programmes are conducted that focus on eliminating violent crimes against humanity; particularly those directed at women and youth. By giving a diverse group of women and youth a voice in these programmes, an opportunity is provided for this often ignored population to participate in the development of a compassionate society that protects its members and encourages growth and achievement.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: (a) Fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women (February-March 2008). Sessions held by the Commission were entitled, "The Empowerment of Women Through Media Exposure", "Financing for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in the Middle East and North African Governments", and "Muslim, Christian, and Jewish Women Building Bridges of Understanding", the last of which was moderated by the Commission Chairperson; (b) Buddhist Muslim Dialogue at the United Nations (September 2008, United Nations Headquarters); (c) Women for Peace International Women's Day Celebration 2008 (March 2008, United Nations General Assembly Hall, New York); (d) Friends of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East Reception (May 2008, United Nations Headquarters), was attended by the Commission's Chairperson; (e) fiftieth session of the Commission (March 2005, United Nations Headquarters). The Chairperson moderated the panel discussion entitled "The Rights of Muslim Women: Islam and Tradition". The Chairperson also participated in the panel discussions at the following conferences: "Widows in Islam" (March 2005), "Muslim and Arab Women Speak Out" (March 2005), "Human Trafficking in the Twenty-first Century" (February 2005), fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (February-March 2007). USFMEP participated in three panel discussions on all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.

Activities in support of global principles: (a) the USFMEP president participated in the meeting on the theme "Has not one God created us?" (September 2008, New York); (b) the fifth USFMEP Annual International Peace Conference (September

2008, Hurghada City, Egypt: hosted discussions on the theme "Awareness and the need for peace and stability in all nations and among all People"; (c) participation in International Peace Day (September 2008) at the fifth USFMEP Annual International Peace Conference; (d) participation in the Buddhist-Muslim Dialogue at United Nations Headquarters (September 2008). It was the introduction to the Week of Global Interfaith Dialogue; Global Family for Love and Peace, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations organized the 10th Dialogue in a series of Buddhist-Muslim Dialogues; (e) the United States Arab Economic Forum (May 2008, Washington, D.C.): USFMEP delegation and President attended the forum; (f) Global Action Forum: Arab and American Dialogue (March 2008, New York): a USFMEP delegation and President attended the conference; (g) Woman as Global Leaders Conference (March 2008, Jumeriah, Dubai): USFMEP delegation attended the conference; (h) international peace conference (September 2007, Leavenworth, United States): USFMEP organized this event in Hawaii, Hungry, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Egypt and Jordan, at the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States and at Princeton University, in Princeton, New Jersey, United States; (i) reception for the Republican Women Regents (March 2006): the USFMEP President attended the reception; (j) international peace walk (December 2005, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt); (k) panel discussion on "Children in slavery", (November 2005, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.): the USFMEP President participated as a panellist; (l) Arab Organization of the Disabled People (September 2005, Beirut, Lebanon): the USFMEP President attended; (m) International Peace Day Conference (September 2005, Cairo, Egypt): Attended by the USFMEP President, who awarded the Peace Shield to the President of Egypt; (n) International Conference on Interreligious Dialogue (June 2005, Vatican City, Italy): the USFMEP First Vice-President participated; (o) The Business Women's Summit (May 2005, Tunis, Tunisia): the USFMEP President attended; (p) Women's Political Caucus of New Jersey (April 2005, Somerset County, New Jersey, United States): the USFMEP President was the feature speaker; (q) United Nations Association of New York's Young Professionals for International Cooperation (March 2005, New York): the USFMEP President lectured on the theme "Women's Issues in the Middle East"; (r) forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development (February 2008, United Nations Headquarters): USFMEP participated in this event, which focused on the theme "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence".